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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/710,276

06/30/2004

Bogdan Radu

MASLIAC-44

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7590

07/10/2008

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EXAMINER

STRIMBU, GREGORY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/710,276	Applicant(s) RADU ET AL.	
	Examiner Gregory J. Strimbu	Art Unit 3634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 April 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Drawings

The drawing correction filed April 4, 2007 has been approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samways et al. (US 6571515) in view of Youngs et al. (US 6892496). Samways et al. discloses a vehicle door assembly for a motor vehicle, comprising: a door frame 2; a carrier plate 1; a door component F; and a plurality of fasteners 16 securing the door component F to the carrier plate 1 as shown in figure 2, said fasteners 16 further securing the door component F and said carrier plate 1 to the door frame 2, and said fasteners 16 configured to initially support said door component F on said carrier plate 1 before said carrier plate is positioned on said door frame; the door component F comprises a window regulator rail 6; said door frame 2 supports more than 50 percent of the weight of said door component since the door component is only attached to the door frame 2; a sealable opening 29. Samways et al. is silent concerning a door trim panel and polypropylene carrier plate.

However, Youngs et al. discloses a vehicle door assembly comprising a door frame 12, a door trim panel 18 secured removably to said door frame, and a polypropylene carrier plate 16 positioned between said door frame and said door trim panel.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Samways et al. with a trim panel and a polypropylene construction, as taught by Youngs et al., to

improve the appearance of the vehicle door as viewed from the interior of the vehicle and to reduce the weight of the door.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed June 17, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Samways et al. fails to disclose fasteners that initially support the door component F on the carrier plate 1 before the carrier plate is positioned on the door frame 2. This is not persuasive because the claims do not require the fasteners 16 to actually support the door component on the carrier plate before the carrier plate is positioned on the door frame. The claims only require the fasteners 16 be capable of supporting the door component F on the carrier plate 1 before the carrier plate 1 is attached to the door frame 2. Clearly, the fasteners 16, given their length as shown in figure 3, are capable of supporting the door component F on the carrier plate 1 before the carrier plate is attached to the door frame.

The applicant's comments concerning Youngs et al. are not persuasive since Youngs et al. is used solely for the teachings a trim panel and a polypropylene carrier plate.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS NOT MADE FINAL.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Strimbu whose telephone number is 571-272-6836. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on 571-272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory J. Strimbu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3634